

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03893 191646Z
ACTION EB-08

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MONROVIA FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, IV
SUBJ: COFFEE INDUSTRY - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. DEHUSKING IS THE PRIMARY PROCESS OF REMOVING THE OUTER COVERING FROM COFFEE CHERRIES TO PRODUCE GREEN COFFEE. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE GOIC HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT MECHANIZING THIS PORTION OF THE COFFEE INDUSTRY TO PRODUCE A HIGHER QUALITY MORE UNIFORM GREEN BEAN FOR EXPORT. UNTIL RECENTLY, ALL THE DEHUSKING HAS BEEN DONE BY TRADITIONAL METHODS BY INDIVIDUAL SMALL PRODUCERS OR IN THE ONE LARGE DEHUSKING PLANT AT TOMBOKRO.

2. THE PLANT AT TOMBOKRO WHICH IS RUNNING AT ABOUT HALF CAPACITY, IS PROCESSING 35,000 TONS OF COFFEE PER YEAR. THIS PLANT, WHICH IS HUGE BY ANY STANDARDS AND INVOLVED ALL NEW TECHNOLOGY AT THE TIME OF ITS CONSTRUCTION, HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING SOME PROBLEMS WITH ITS EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT AND ITS LARGE CAPACITY -- THE NATURAL HINTERLAND CANNOT SUPPLY ENOUGH COFFEE TO KEEP THE PLANT OPERATING
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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 03893 191646Z

AT FULL CAPACITY. BECAUSE OF THESE COMPLICATIONS, GOIC HAS BEEN DELAYING A DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THEIR MECHANIZATION PLANS.

3. THEY SEEM NOW TO HAVE COME TO A DECISION. IN FEBRUARY, THE CAISSE DE STABILISATION ANNOUNCED TO THE EXPORTERS THAT THEY PLAN TO BUILD 17 DEHUSKING

PLANTS BY 1979. THESE PLANTS WILL BE MEDIUM-SIZED AND SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH NO DESCRIPTION WAS GIVEN OF THE PLANNED TECHNOLOGY, CAISSE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE TOMBOKRO PROCESS WHICH UTILIZES SANS, WOULD NOT BE USED.

4. IN JANUARY, THE IVORY COAST'S SECOND DEHUSKING PLANT WENT INTO OPERATION. LOCATED IN SAN PEDRO, THE UNICO PLANT IS JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED BY SIFCA, JAG, AND DAFCI, THREE LARGE COFFEE AND COCOA EXPORTERS. STARTING AS IT DID IN MID-SEASON, THE PLANT EXPECTS TO PROCESS ABOUT 24,000 TONS OF COFFEE THIS YEAR. NEXT YEAR WITH FULL OPERATING CAPACITY, IT HOPES TO DOUBLE THAT AMOUNT.
STEARNS

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